GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4519
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
SUDDEN DENSE FOG AT IGI AIRPORT
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that an unseasonal and untimely` fog wrecked havoc at Delhi Airport recently and thereby delaying more than 60 flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to control such type of situation in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b) There was un-seasonal and untimely fog experienced on 9.3.2008 between 0612 to 1030 hours at IGI Airport Delhi which resulted in cancellation of two flights and diversion of 14 flights.

(c) & (d) Fog is a natural phenomenon, which normally occurs during the winter months of December to February. However, occurence of fog is dependent on climate and as such there are no known means to control/restrain the same.

(e) In accordance with ICAO guidelines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed CAT III B ILS at IGI airport, New Delhi, which permits operation of aircraft up to Runway Visual Range [RVR] of 50 meters which can be used by airlines with certified pilots. All airlines are directed/encouraged to plan their operations with aircrafts and pilots capable of operating under such low visibility conditions.